

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 007346

67

ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-06 SAJ-01 AF-06 ACDA-05 MC-02 SSO-00

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IO-11 /084 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/WE WPKELLY:WPK

APPROVED BY EUR MR. LOWENSTEIN

EUR/WE-MR. BARBOUR (SUBS)

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O P 122321Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 007346

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PO

SUBJECT: CUBAN TRANSIT OF AZORES TO ANGOLA

REF: (A) LISBON 197 (B) PONTA DELGADA 18

1. ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY LOWENSTEIN CALLED IN PORTUGUESE CHARGE MARTINS AT NOON JANUARY 12 TO DISCUSS RESUMPTION OF CUBAN FLIGHTS THROUGH SANTA MARIA, AZORES AND TO REASSURE HIM THAT U.S. POLICY ON ANGOLA HAD NOT CHANGED. LOWENSTEIN TOLD MARTINS THAT WE REMAIN DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT SOVIET/CUBAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA, THAT PORTUGAL HAD ASSURED US REPEATEDLY OF LISBON'S CONTINUED NEUTRALITY RE THE COMPETING LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND THAT THE RESUMPTION OF CUBAN FLIGHTS THROUGH THE AZORES ON JANUARY 10 AND 11 CONFLICTS DIRECTLY WITH THOSE ASSURANCES AND WITH PORTUGAL'S ANGOLAN POLICY. LOWENSTEIN EXPRESSED
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PAGE 02 STATE 007346

HOPE THAT PORTUGAL WOULD NOT ISOLATE ITSELF FROM OTHER

WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES BY RECOGNIZING MPLA.

2. MARTINS REPLIED THAT HE HAD NO INFORMATION OF ANY CHANGE IN THE GOP POSITION. HE NOTED THE JANUARY 9 FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT WHICH DESCRIBED PREVIOUS FLIGHTS AS NON-MILITARY AND SAID THAT PORTUGAL'S POLICY WAS TO DENY USE OF PORTUGUESE TERRITORY TO SHIPS OR AIRCRAFT WHICH TRANSPORT MEN OR MATERIEL TO ANGOLA FOR MILITARY PURPOSES. LOWENSEIN POINTED OUT THAT THERE CAN

BE NO QUESTION BUT THAT THE CUBAN FLIGHTS IN QUESTION HAD A MILITARY PURPOSE. MARTINS PROMISED TO COMMUNICATE OUR VIEWS TO LISBON IMMEDIATELY.

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